GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:492
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
DREDGING OPERATION AT KOLKATA PORT
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dredging operation at the Kolkata Port Trust is not being done as per the procedure laid down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have failed to improve the targeted navigation channels; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING(SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)

(a)&(b) Dredging operation at Kolkata Port is being done as per laid down procedure.However, suitable modifications are carried out on the basis of local conditions such as nature of the river bed, tidal flow pattern, re-shoaling factor, general weather condition, sea-state and proximity of the dumping ground etc. and the area to be dredged.

(c) Kolkata Port Trust has been able to achieve improvement in depths in the navigationalchannels most of the times. However, maintenance of depths at the desired level on sustained on the basis has not been possible.

(d) The main dredging activities of Kolkata Port are confined at Haldia Dock System which is about133 Kms, upstream from the sea on the bank of Hugli River which is a very active and dynamic river. The river is susceptible to continuous morphological changes depending on seasons, upland discharge, hydraulic conditions of its distributaries and tributaries, dredging efforts and resiltation, bed movements resulting in resiltation of dredged areas as well as weather conditions etc. Thus, it has not been possible to achieve the targeted depths always or to maintain the same at the desired level. The Government has, therefore, approved a comprehensive River Regulatory Scheme which combines both dredging and river training work. It is expected that after completion of the scheme there will be depth improvement by one Meter in the navigational channel leading to Haldia.